

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask for a second reading in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, and having done that, I object to my own requests en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ROBERT T. STAFFORD WHITE ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 159 which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 159) to redesignate the White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont as the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to bid a final goodbye to one of Vermont's most distinguished public servants. On Saturday, December 23, just before Christmas, former Senator Bob Stafford from Vermont passed away at the venerable age of 93. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy of which he and his family and fellow Vermonters and all Americans should be exceptionally proud. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Robert Stafford, an extraordinary Vermonter, and especially a very dear and close friend.

He will be greatly missed by me, my wife Marcelle, and by so many other Americans all across our country. We send our condolences to his wife Helen and his family.

Born in Rutland in 1913, Senator Stafford attended his hometown's public schools. He completed his undergraduate work at one of our Nation's finest undergraduate institutions, Middlebury College. He briefly attended the University of Michigan Law School but ultimately earned his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 1938.

Bob was a remarkable person not only because of his service as a statesman but also for his service in the military. He is a prime example of what has been so aptly named the "greatest generation."

Senator Stafford courageously stepped forward to serve our Nation during not one but two foreign wars. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on active duty from 1942 to 1946. Again, when the Korean war began, he served from 1951 to 1953 as an officer in the Navy. Bob later became the first commander of the Navy Reserve Center in Burlington, VT. The center later moved to White River Junction in 1995, and I was pleased to recommend to the Navy that the new facility be named

the Robert T. Stafford Naval Reserve Center. They happily obliged. Throughout his life, Bob remained extremely proud of his Navy career. I still remember that beautiful day when we opened the new Naval Reserve facility named in honor of his leadership.

Indeed, the recently completed Lake Champlain Navy Memorial was dedicated in his honor by the unanimous recommendation of its founding committee, made up of Navy veterans, retirees, and reservists.

Bob Stafford was an absolute giant in Vermont politics. He spent almost 30 years representing our great State, first in the U.S. House of Representatives, and then in the U.S. Senate. Prior to his arrival in Washington in the early 1960s, he served his fellow Vermonters closer to home, holding a number of prominent State positions.

He served as Rutland County State's attorney and deputy State attorney general, and finally as our State attorney general. From 1957 to 1959, Bob Stafford held the post of Lieutenant Governor. In 1959, he went on to become Governor.

In 1960, Bob Stafford was elected to Vermont's sole seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He won five successive reelections. In September of 1971, he resigned his House seat to accept an appointment to the U.S. Senate following the death of Senator Winston Prouty.

After he won a special election in January 1972, Bob proceeded to represent Vermont in the Senate during the next 17 years. I had the distinct privilege of serving with him during all but 2 of those years. He also had serving with him from the time he was Governor through the House and the U.S. Senate a most remarkable Chief of Staff, Neal Houston. He and Neal Houston were like brothers. They could almost complete each other's sentences. When I spoke to Neal and heard the sad news about Senator Stafford's passing, I knew he felt that he had lost a member of his own family.

When I first came to Washington as a young man in 1974, I was a 34-year-old junior Senator from Vermont. We didn't have any kind of orientation for new Senators at that time. Bob Stafford was an indispensable mentor to me. I will never forget the leadership and friendship he offered me during that challenging time.

Interestingly enough, Senator Stafford was sort of the epitome of a Vermont Republican in the proudest tradition. I was the only Democrat ever elected. He took me under his wing during those early years. He was enormously helpful to me, his younger, far less experienced junior colleague. I will never forget that he even allowed me the use of his office before I was assigned a space of my own, where we could interview people for positions in my office and where telephone calls could be answered. He brought me around and introduced me to both Republicans and Democrats and basically vouched for me.

But Bob and his wife Helen's kindness extended far beyond the confines of the Senate office buildings. Helen was kind enough even to offer to babysit our children when Marcelle and I were so new in town that we had nowhere to turn for childcare while we were house-hunting. This is a remarkable couple.

To this day, Marcelle and I hold enormous gratitude for the friendship the Staffords offered during our early years in Washington. That friendship has continued throughout the years, and we have many fond memories of visiting their home on Sugar Hill Road. Even after Bob left the Senate, we would drop by and visit. We had some most remarkable conversations—some political, some family, and after all of them I would leave with a smile on my face.

Bob was an extremely well liked member of the Republican Party. He served at one time in the Republican leadership, but he also formed many close friendships with Senators on the Democratic side. Always respectful, always polite, Bob Stafford consistently recognized the importance of moderation and compromise. He, better than most, knew how to form bipartisan alliances.

In his quiet and unassuming manner, Bob Stafford fought hard for the issues that mattered most to him. He believed passionately that higher education should be more accessible to all Americans, regardless of their socioeconomic status, and he was instrumental in creating the student loan program which today bears his name. The Stafford Student Loan Program has made higher education more accessible for millions of Americans, even for some who work in my office today. Bob was a champion of vocational education. Today the Stafford Technical Center, located in his hometown of Rutland, serves the needs of hundreds of students in Rutland County.

Bob showed tremendous leadership in blocking President Reagan's attempts to slash health and education funding. Thanks to Bob Stafford's hard work, programs for disabled Americans and legal aid were left largely intact during much of the 1980s when other programs were starkly scaled back. His chairmanship made sure they were protected.

Bob Stafford also played an important role in another issue of enormous relevance today, Federal emergency assistance. In 1988, President Reagan signed into law the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, a bill which provides the statutory authority for Federal disaster response activities pertaining to FEMA programs.

While his achievements in the areas of education and Federal disaster relief were certainly superb, I believe his most enduring legacy will be for the work he did in protecting the environment and public health. He helped

shape and strengthen some of our Nation's most critical environmental laws for over two decades.

As chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee from 1981 to 1986, Bob Stafford was instrumental in persuading Congress to expand and strengthen the Superfund toxic waste cleanup law in the mid-1980s. It was in large part due to Robert Stafford's unwavering commitment to this bill in 1980 that the Superfund Act became law at all. As many of us know, this law has been indispensable in forcing industry polluters to contribute money to finance cleanup and restoration of contaminated wastesites.

Bob Stafford believed passionately in the Federal Government's commitment to improving the quality of our Nation's air. This was never more evident than in his steadfast work to uphold the Clean Air Act when it was under attack during the 1980s. He did not shirk from taking on his friend President Reagan as well as auto manufacturers and other industry groups in refusing to roll back this critical air pollution law.

In fact, I remember talking to him once. They were so anxious to get him to change and let these rollbacks go through that they invited him down to the White House, to spend some one-on-one time with President Reagan. The Reagan administration amazed many of their members afterward that Bob didn't back off at all. He came back and kept on protecting the environment.

I said to him: Bob, what happened when you went down there to talk with President Regan?

He said: Well, the President had notes of what he was supposed to say and he said it. Then he looked at me and he said: Bob, you're probably not going to give in, are you? Bob said: No, no, I'm not, Mr. President, but I certainly appreciate the time to be with you.

I said then: What did you talk about the rest of the time?

Oh, we talked about our kids, we talked about sports, we talked about a lot of other things. He said: I had a wonderful conversation with President Reagan. But he did not budge on the environment, something no Vermonter would do.

His concern about the contamination of our air was truly remarkable. The consistent and clear manner in which he spoke about the danger of ozone depletion, acid rain, and the release of greenhouse gases related to global warming, during a very difficult period, was a source of inspiration to so many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It certainly was an inspiration to me.

As EPW chairman, Senator Stafford also led the fight to improve the quality of our water. Working closely with Senator John Chafee and others on both sides of the aisle, his leadership was critical in reauthorizing the Clean Water Act in 1987. Bob cited the pas-

sage of this act as the culmination of one of the greatest bipartisan efforts in protecting our Nation's environment. It really was. Republicans and Democrats came together. It gave me enormous pride to see him appear 3 years ago before the Senate in celebrating the act's 30-year anniversary. Thanks to Bob's leadership during those difficult years of deregulation, our Nation was able to make great strides in reducing the levels of pollutants and contaminants in our water.

Even after he retired from Congress, he served Vermont in many ways. He was a member of the University of Vermont's School of Natural Resources Advisory Committee and attended the day-long hearings with his wife Helen up to just a few years ago. He also lectured at UVM, Norwich University, and Castleton State College. In 2003, his old alma mater, Middlebury College, honored both Bob and his wife Helen, also a Middlebury graduate, by inaugurating the Robert and Helen Stafford Professorship in Public Policy. Two people who had been together almost all their lives are together in this professorship.

Also in retirement, Bob continued to fight for clean air. In 1995, he joined forces with his friend and former colleague, Senator Edmund Muskie, in incorporating the Clean Air Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to upholding and enforcing clean air legislation.

He leaves so many impressive achievements for his lifelong work in public service. But outside these public accomplishments, Senator Stafford was also a man of many personal hobbies and interests. It kind of reflects who he is. On weekends, he liked to slip out of Washington with his wife Helen and enjoy time on his boat, a full Moon, cruising down the Chesapeake Bay. Marcelle and I were fortunate enough to join them on occasion. He loved the water. He loved everything about sailing. You can tell why the Navy holds him in such high regard back home.

He took flying lessons as a young man. He eventually got his pilot's license in the early sixties. In fact, he would pilot a leased Cessna back and forth between Washington and Vermont.

It was a mark of this unique Senator that he welcomed and helped the first Senator of the other party to be elected in Vermont. I will always remember and cherish the walks we took down the halls and the times we would sit and talk at lunch. People thought we were talking so much about politics. We were talking about Vermont. We were talking about whether the foliage season was going to start early or late, and we would make a determined judgment when it would be. Heck, we had not the foggiest idea but, boy, we had fun determining when it would start.

No Senator could have learned as much from his fellow Senator as I did, nor could a senior Senator be so pa-

tient and understanding with his junior. Throughout our time together, when I had been inclined to move impulsively, it would be Bob Stafford who would help me decide what was truly in the best interest of the country and Vermont. He was the most unflappable person I have ever known.

I remember flying to Vermont with him once on a commercial airline. The plane hit a tremendous amount of turbulence. We suddenly dropped thousands of feet. At least one person was airborne in the cabin, and things were flying around. I know my pulse raced ever so fast. When the pilot finally got control of the plane with a shuddering, banging maneuver, I sat there stunned. I had sweat soaking through my shirt. Bob simply folded his paper—which he never stopped reading—turned to me and in a quiet voice said: Patrick, just think if this plane had gone down. Tomorrow morning there would have been a long line outside the Governor's office. Everybody would be saying what a terrible tragedy that we have lost our Senators, but, Governor, I am willing to be appointed to either one of the seats. I found that I was not so frightened, and I was able to laugh until it hurt, and I did laugh.

Bob Stafford was a man who dedicated his entire adult life to public service because he deeply believed in the value of public service. And no matter where life took him, Bob stayed close to his Vermont roots. He never forgot the people he served. While many younger Vermonters and Americans may not know much about Bob Stafford, his public service and leadership are examples for all of us. Our country would do well to stop and take notice of his life and reflect on how we should all serve our Nation better with his bipartisan leadership style.

It is with tremendous sadness that I say goodbye to this truly distinguished American, more importantly to an exceptionally dear friend. To honor Robert Stafford's legacy, Senator SANDERS and I, along with Congressman Peter Welch from Vermont, introduced a bill to rename the White Rocks National Recreation Area. This is an area Senator Stafford created in 1984. We are naming it after him. White Rocks was among his most beloved natural areas in our State. We know that he and Helen could actually see the towering white cliff face of White Rocks Mountain from their home. This will remind generations of future Vermonters of Senator Stafford's towering achievements and the humanity of his spirits. I hope all my colleagues will support this legislation.

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, on this first day of the 110th Congress, I pay tribute to a former Member of this esteemed Chamber. On December 23, 2006, Senator Robert Stafford passed away. This was a tremendous loss for both Vermont and the country. There is no doubt, however, that his accomplishments in many areas will continue to be felt across this great Nation for countless years to come.

A native of Rutland, VT, Senator Stafford was born in 1913. Before representing Vermont in Washington, Bob Stafford spent years serving the people of our State, including as Attorney General. In 1960 he began service as Vermont's single voice in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he remained until 1971, when he became a Member of this hallowed body. During his 17 years in the United States Senate, Senator Stafford was known for his commitment to bipartisanship and congeniality.

Senator Stafford left his mark on our country in more ways than can be mentioned here today. He had an unwavering dedication to making education within reach of all our country's citizens and today, countless Americans—maybe even some of the younger members in this Chamber—have benefited from the Stafford Student Loan program. Additionally, his commitment to the environment and public health was unshakable. Bob Stafford, from his position as Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee from 1981 until 1986, worked tirelessly to address both air and water quality issues, even when it meant doing so against the wishes of his own leadership, at the highest levels. His courage on all of these issues, and so many others, will never be forgotten.

Leaving the Senate did not stop Robert Stafford from contributing to the common good. In fact, he remained active at the state level and continued to fight for protection of the environment. I can only hope that I will be as engaged for as long as he was.

To honor Senator Stafford, Senator LEAHY and I, along with Representative WELCH, introduced a bill today to re-designate the White Rocks National Recreation Area in our fine state as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area." This is a small, but fitting, tribute to his memory.

Bob Stafford was a true public servant. I am humbled to be serving the State of Vermont in the seat he once held. He dedicated his life to serving others and to creating a better world. My thoughts are with his family as they mourn his passing. And may the example he set during his many years be emulated for many to come. ●

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 159) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 159

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROBERT T. STAFFORD WHITE ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of

Vermont, as established by section 202 of the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 460nn-1), is redesignated as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the recreation area referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding that there are a couple of Senators who wish to speak. We will take care of that in a minute.

I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11:30 a.m., on Monday, January 8; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in that day, and that the time until 12 noon be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at noon, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 19, a resolution celebrating the life of the late President Gerald R. Ford; that once the resolution is reported, the Senate then vote, without intervening objection or debate, on adoption of that resolution; that upon the adoption of the resolution, the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

I further ask consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate on Friday, January 5, S. 1 be considered to have received its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Today was a good day in the Senate. The spirit of bipartisanship is in the air. I look forward to working with the Republican leaders and Members of Congress as we move ahead and forward in this Congress, the 110th Congress.

For the information of Members, the first vote next week is Monday, January 8, at 12 noon. Therefore, Members should be prepared to be here and ready to vote. Time will show what we will do, but votes will be a lot quicker than they used to be. We will not wait around for long times. Most of the votes are not very close, and it is not fair to keep Members from their constituents and other work in their office. If some people are not here, they will not be recorded within a reasonable period of time after the vote is called.

We hoped to proceed to S. 1. We do not have consent to move forward on that yet, but we are confident we will.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator LANDRIEU for 10 minutes and Senator COBURN for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AUTHORIZATION OF MORGANZA TO THE GULF OF MEXICO HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I come to the floor briefly to speak about a bill I introduced today on the first day of this 110th Congress to signify its importance to our State and to speak about that for a moment.

But before I do, I want to give my public congratulations to the new leadership of this Chamber, to thank the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from Kentucky, the majority leader and the minority leader, for their gathering together of the Senators today, as the Presiding Officer also attended—a quite historic meeting of almost 100 of us in the Old Senate Chamber—and their commitment to us and to the Nation, although it was a private meeting, to work in a more collegial, cooperative way as this Congress begins and to try to forge the bipartisan solutions I think our country called for as a reflection of the outcome of the last elections.

I, for one, publicly want to commit myself to that endeavor and to work toward that end, as I continue to work across the aisle with many in the other party, and even Members such as the Presiding Officer in our own party, in the Democratic Party, to get the job done for our States.

In that regard, I introduced this bill today to authorize a project and to ask for special consideration for this very important levee and hurricane protection project in the State of Louisiana called Morganza to the Gulf. As today we look forward into what we are going to do with this new hope and new spring and new era of cooperation, that is terrific. But we also need to think about looking a little bit backward as to what we did not get done in the last Congress or the Congresses before so we can pick up that work and move forward.

This initiative, Morganza to the Gulf, would fall into that category of a project that was actually approved not only by the last Congress, the 109th Congress, but the 108th and the 107th, and started back actually decades ago. And because of just a few technical glitches resulting in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' failure to timely complete its report, the contingent authorization of the Morganza project expired. Eventually, the Corps submitted its report more than a year late and